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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: STEFFEN DENZINGER ET AL.)
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SERIAL NO. TO BE ASSIGNED) ART UNIT: TO BE ASSIGNED
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FILED: HEREWITH) EXAMINER: TO BE ASSIGNED
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FOR: RADIATION-SENSITIVE RECORDING)
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MATERIAL HAVING A STRUCTURED)
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BACK)

Asst. Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

"EXPRESS MAIL" No. ET 284672114 US DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2001

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to fee calculation and examination please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-17.

Please add the following new claims.

- -18. A recording material for the production of offset printing plates, which comprises a web- or plate-form support, a radiation-sensitive layer on the front of the support and a continuous, pigment particle-free layer on the back, and the back layer consists essentially of an organic polymeric material having a glass transition temperature T_g of at

least 45°C, and said material has a surface and said surface has a Bekk smoothness of from 5 to 800 s.

19. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the organic polymeric material is a polymer which has been thermally crosslinked by the action of heat and/or UV radiation.
20. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the back layer has a Bekk smoothness of from 5 to 600 s.
21. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the back layer has on its surface a structure consisting of longitudinal or transverse grooves, where the ratio of the Ra values to one another is at least 5, and the ratio of the Rz ratios to one another is at least 6.
22. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the structure of the back layer is direction-dependent.
23. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the radiation-sensitive layer located on the front of the support is positive-working.
24. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the radiation-sensitive layer located on the front of the support is negative-working.
25. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the radiation-sensitive layer located on the front of the support works on the basis of silver halide.
26. The recording material according to claim 18, wherein the radiation sensitive layer located on the front of the support is thermally positive-working or thermally negative-working.
27. A process for the production of the recording material according to claim 18, which comprises applying the back layer by roller application.
28. The process according to claim 27, wherein the roller application is direct roller application.
29. The process according to claim 27, wherein the roller application is indirect roller application.

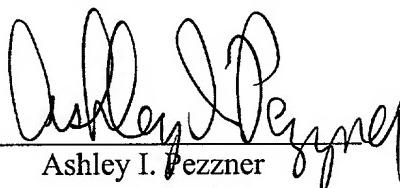
30. The process according to claim 27, wherein the roller application is carried out using an engraved roller.
31. The process according to claim 27, wherein the roller application is carried out using a structured rubber roller.
32. A process for the production of the recording material according to claim 18, which comprises applying the back layer with the aid of a slot die system.
33. A process for the production of the recording material according to claim 18, which comprises applying the back layer by spray application.
34. The process according to claim 27, wherein the back layer is produced from a lacquer which has a viscosity at room temperature (23°C) of from 80 to 1000 mPa · s.
35. The process as claimed in claim 27, wherein back layer is produced from a lacquer which has a viscosity at room temperature (23°C) of from 100 to 600 mPa · s. - -

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment be entered prior to fee calculation and examination. The applicants have rewritten claims 1-17 into proper U.S. form as newly added claims 18-35. No additional fee is due. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

A prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

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